increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing, etc.

Dumping of Steel

112. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few foreign countries are dumping steel in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect our own steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Indian Steel Industry is facing competition on account of dumping from some countries. An anti-dumping petition was filed by M/s. SAIL and M/s. Essar Steel Ltd., on behalf of the domestic steel producers with the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce under the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, alleging dumping of HR Coils/Sheets/Plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakistan. The petition is supported by other major steel producers like TISCO and Lloyd Steel. The Designated Authority vide their notification dated 18th November, 1998 has recommended imposition of Anti-dumping duties on imports from Russia & Ukraine, which shall be the difference between the amount mentioned in column (3) below and the landed price of imports per MT subject to a minimum of Rs. 481 per MT.

S.N.	Item Description	Amount (Rs. per MT)
1	Hot Rolled Coils	14300
2	Hot Rolled Strips/Sheets/Plates	15000
3	Boiler Quality Plates	22000

भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लि. में कामगारों की छंटनी

113. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह हमदर्द:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मार्च, 1998 के अन्त तक भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड में लगभग 1.86 लाख कर्मचारी कार्यरत थे;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी सही आंकड़े क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि अगले चार से पांच साल की अवधि के दौरान उक्त संगठन ने 60,000 कर्मचारियों की छंटनी करने का फैसला किया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी तथ्य क्या हैं तथा संगठन के आकलन के आधार पर कितनी श्रम शक्ति अधिक होने का अनुमान है?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री नवीन पटनायक): (क) और (ख) 31 मार्च, 1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (सेल) की जनशक्ति 1,76,147 थी।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) इस्पात संयंत्रों के आधुनिकीकरण और नई प्रौद्योगिकीयों को अपनाने से इस्पात संयंत्रों में प्रारम्भ में उपलब्ध कराई गई जनशक्ति को युक्तिसंगत बनाने की संभावना है। कार्य प्रक्रियाओं में सुधार, प्रशिक्षण एवं पुन:तैनाती के जरिए श्रमशक्ति को युक्तिसंगत बनाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। यह वार्षिक मानव संसाधन बजट जहां स्वाभाविक पृथक्करण के लिए कटौती का सावधानीपूर्वक सामंजस्य किया जाता है, के जरिए किया जा रहा है।

जनशक्ति को युक्तिसंगत बनाने के प्रयासों के एक भाग के रूप में सेल ने 01 मार्च, 1998 से स्वैच्छिक सेवा निवृत्ति योजना (वी.आर.एस.) शुरू की थी। यह योजना 31 अगस्त, 1998 तक लागू थी।

Demand of Steel for different sectors

114. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total actual demand for steel in power plants, shipping and railway projects during the last three years;

(b) whether supply of steel to these sectors is not adequate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to supply steel in the country as per their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) Estimates of demand for finished (carbon) steel are made on all India basis and not individual consuming sectors. During the last 3 years, demand and production of finished (carbon) steel has been as under:—

(Qty. in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Production
1995-96	21.29	21.40
1996-97	22.12	22.72
1997-98	22.63	23.37

At present, there is no shortage of most items of steel. Supply/availability of steel to all segments of the consuming sectors has been adequate. To supplement domestic availability both in terms of quantity and quality, import of all items of steel is freely allowed as per policy. However, Indian Steel Producers have been taking continuous steps to meet the requirements of the domestic consumers which include upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity and yields, improvement in quality of products and adopting the product mix to the requirement of the consumers.

Closure of Uneconomic Units of SAIL

115. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to hive off uneconomic units and concentrate only on core areas;

(b) whether the uneconomic units have been identified, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the interests of the employees in those units would be safeguarded; and

(d) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Preliminary work to identify uneconomic units in non-core areas has been undertaken by SAIL. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) and (d) Interest of employees would be safeguarded.

Issuing of licences for Import of Steel Scrap

116. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross irregularities in the licences to import steel scrap worth crores of rupees by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the enquiry, if any, conducted by Government in the matter; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) Reports alleging irregularities etc. regarding the sale/ transfer of Advance Import Licences by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) had appeared in certain sections of the Press. The Department of Steel also received representations on the same subject. An independent enquiry to look into the sale/ transfer of Advance Import Licences by various PSUs including SAIL, under Department of Steel, was set up. The enquiry report has since been submitted. No gross irregularities were established on the part of SAIL in the enquiry. However, the enquiry report pointed out inadequate action by SAIL on some counts. Follow up action on the enquiry report has been initiated. The subject matter of the question is, at present, subjudice.

खान दुर्घटनाएं

117. **श्री नरेश यादव: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में खान दुर्घटनाओं में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जान माल के नुकसान में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान कितनी दुर्घटनाएं हुई हैं और इन दुर्घटनाओं में कितने लोग मारे गए;

(ग) मृतकों के परिवारों को कितना मुआवजा दिया गया है;

(घ) क्या अधिक संसाधन जुटा कर और बेहतर प्रौद्योगिकी का इस्तेमाल कर के इस प्रणाली को अधिक कारगार बनाने के संबंध में कोई योजना बनाई गई है; और

(ड़) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री नवीन पटनायक): (क) देश में खान दुर्घटनाओं में तेजी से वृद्धि नहीं हुई है।

(ख) गत 5 वर्षों के दौरान हुई दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या तथा इन दुर्घटनाओं में मारे गए तथा गंभीर रूप से घायल